

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ROOM 803, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009, 11:00 A.M.**

**Voting Members present:**

Deke Copenhaver, Mayor of Augusta – **Chairman**  
Sandra Korbelik (representing Fred Cavanaugh,  
Mayor of Aiken)  
Stephen Strohming (representing Ronnie Young,  
Chairman, Aiken County Council  
Skip Grkovic (representing Lark Jones, Mayor, North  
Augusta)  
Ulysses Mitchell (representing Vance Smith, GA  
DOT Commissioner)

**Voting Members absent:**

George James, Mayor of Grovetown  
Tom Cobb, Mayor of Blythe  
  
Henry Taylor, SC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District  
Commissioner, ½ vote  
Charles Dalton, SC – 3<sup>rd</sup> District Highway  
Commissioner, ½ vote  
Robert Buchwitz, Chairman Hephzibah  
Commission  
C. H. Williams, Mayor of Burnettsville  
John Curry (representing Col John Holwick –  
Fort Gordon)  
Ron Cross, Chairman, Columbia Co.  
Commission – **Vice- Chairman**

**Others Present (N = Nonvoting Member)**

**Augusta-Richmond Co. Planning Commission**

George A. Patty  
Paul DeCamp  
Lynn Russell  
Marya Moultrie  
Juriah Lewis

**GA DOT**

Reuben Woods  
Vonda Everett

**Aiken County**

Gerald Jefferson

**City of Augusta**

David Griffith

**LSCOG**

Rich Eberle

**SC DOT**

Jim Frierson

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes of the Policy Committee meetings held on October 22, 2009.**

Any reference to Gerald Ross as GA DOT Commissioner should be changed to Vance Smith in the minutes.

Mr. Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2009. Mr. Cross seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **2. Consider recommending approval of the draft FY 2011 Unified Planning Work program.**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. A ten page handout was sent with the agenda with a brief summary outlining each of the work elements in the UPWP and a tentative budget for each. This UPWP is very similar to the current year. There is substantial amount of carryover funds in the Special Studies work element to finance several of the studies that are ongoing now or will be underway shortly in the Aiken County part of the study area. On the Georgia side, consideration will be given to the Certification recommendation to update the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2011. An invitation will be sent out to ARTS stakeholders for ideas or suggestions in regard to special studies projects. This is a draft of the UPWP and is subject to review by our state and federal partners and approval by the Policy Committee next March. Implementation of these work elements and specific activities will begin in July, 2010.

Mr. Grkovic moved to approve the draft FY 2011 UPWP. Mr. Mitchell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Copenhagen had to leave early for a funeral. Mr. Patty conducted the rest of the meeting.

## **3. Status of Projects:**

### **(a) Georgia Highways**

Mrs. Everett presented this item. There are no major changes since the last update. Projects scheduled to be let in the next three months include:

- Alexander Drive Widening (ARRA Funded) - was let on November 20, 2009 letting. Sunbelt won the bid at \$7.7 million. The contract is expected to be awarded this week.

Project updates include:

- William Few Parkway Extension – Met with FHWA and submitted changes to FONSI and CLOMR. This should be resolved by January.
- Flowing Wells Road Widening – The work on this project has stopped due to funding issues.
- Old Petersburg / Old Evans Road Widening – Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 202 of 284 parcels have been acquired.
- Wrightsboro Road Widening - Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 134 of 182 parcels have been acquired. Final Plans are 80% complete.
- I-520 from Gordon Highway to US 1 (Deans Bridge Road) – Right-of-way plans are under review.
- Windsor Spring Road Widening (Phases IV and V) – Right of way plans have been approved.
- SR 28 at Laney-Walker Blvd. Ext. / Riverfront Drive Intersection Improvements - preliminary plans underway
- SR 56 from Bennock Mill Road to Old Waynesboro Road widening - Environmental is underway.

**(b) South Carolina Highways**

Mrs. Korbely presented this item as sent to her by Kevin Gantt of SCDOT.

- Silver Bluff / Dougherty Road Intersection Improvements - The bid came in substantially higher the estimated cost. SC DOT will either rebid the project or reduce the scope of work to be done on this project. The project could even be added to another project to help reduce the costs.
- Silver Bluff Road Widening - Warrant studies are being conducted at the request of public officials. The majority of the public attending the last public meeting requested a signal at an intersection SCDOT deemed unnecessary.
- Palmetto Parkway, Phase II - There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 16, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.
- US 1 / 5<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange - A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 16, 2009

**(c) Augusta Public Transit**

Mr. Lewis presented this item. The Transit Development Plan is complete.. Once the final document is received it will be posted to the ARTS website. Implementation of the recommendations will begin as soon as possible once the Augusta Commission approves the plan. The ARRA projects have been approved by the Commission and funds have been made available. The Georgia Transit Association will be hosting a meeting next week in Athens. Staff will be attending. The agenda will cover items such as State PL matching funds, increase in local participation, and cutbacks on transit departments in a three state area.

**(d) Aiken County Transit**

Mr. Eberle presented this item. Saturday service has been eliminated due to budget cuts. No major complaints have been received. We are currently identifying ways to tweak the current routes with input from the Aiken County Council on Aging. We are looking at small ways to make the service more customer-friendly. There are funds in the budget for new shelters. LSCOG is working with the city of Aiken to identify potential shelter locations. To raise revenue, we are considering wrapping the buses with advertisements. To get the word out to everyone in Aiken that there is a good bus system, they are utilizing everything from social networking to Facebook to reaching out to individual businesses.

As part of the TMCC project implemented in March, BFE is in the final stages of updating their routing schedule and dispatch software to route match. This will increase the efficiency of the bus system and the Dial-a-Ride program.

**7. Update on Special Studies Projects:**

**(a) ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan**

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. We are continuing to move forward with the LRTP update with the consultant Wilbur Smith and Associates. Focus is on the public information meetings being scheduled in December to receive public input. The first meeting is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers of North Augusta Municipal Building from 5 - 7p.m. A formal presentation will begin at 6:00.

Another public meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> with a focus on the environmental justice community. The public meeting will cover the goals and objects of the plan. We hope to receive input from the community on their concerns and what projects they would like to see implemented in their community.

## **8. Update on Air Quality Initiatives**

### **(a) Aiken County**

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. Aiken County is still participating in the PM 2.5 early action measures.

### **(b) Richmond County**

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. On November 16, 2009, EPA proposed to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality standards for sulfur dioxide. The proposed changes would improve public health protection. EPA is proposing to revise the primary SO<sub>2</sub> standard, designed to protect public health, to a level of between 50 and 100 parts per billion measured over one hour. The existing primary standards are 140 ppb measured over 24 hours, and 40 ppb measured over an entire year. The agency also is taking comments on alternate levels for the one hour standard up to 150 ppb. EPA will accept comments for 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register. The agency will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule on January 5, 2010. EPA will issue a final rule by June 2, 2010.

EPA will sign the final primary national air quality standard for SO<sub>2</sub> by June 2, 2010. If EPA promulgates a new standard for, SO<sub>2</sub> the agency expects to identify or “designate” areas as meeting or not meeting the standard (or as unclassifiable) in 2012, within two years of the effective date of the standard. In the event of insufficient information, the Clean Air Act provides that EPA can take an additional year to designate areas.

## **Other Business**

An Open House meeting on the Wrightsboro Road widening project will be held on January 7, 2010 from 5 - 7 pm at the Sue Reynolds School located at 3840 Wrightsboro Road.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**



George A. Patty  
Project Director